

different colours depends on the different frequency of vibrations excited by light in the retina, and "that all material bodies have an attraction for the ethereal medium by means of which it is accumulated within their substance." In all his conclusions, while differing from Newton's doctrines, he sees the strongest proofs of the admirable accuracy of Newton's experiments, "but scarcely any remaining hope to explain the affections of light by a comparison with the motions of projectiles."¹ Although Young thus established "a theory of the nature of light which satisfactorily removes almost every difficulty that has hitherto attended the subject,"² his view was only tardily accepted. Wollaston,³ with the hesitancy which also characterised his adhesion to the atomic theory of Dalton, did not avowedly adopt Young's views, though he furnished some capital experimental support for the vibratory theory of light.⁴

Brougham, in the 'Edinburgh Review,' ridiculed Young's theories, and persuaded the public that they stood in contradiction with Newton's discoveries, on which they were really as much founded as those of the opposite school. Through such disfavour, arising largely from a want of skill in grasping the intricate mathematical problems which were involved, the doctrine of the interference of light, the mainstay of the undula-

15.
Brougham's
attack on
Young.

¹ Works, vol. i. p. 169.

² 'Lectures,' ed. Kelland, Preface, p. ix.

³ "Whatever disposition Dr Wollaston may have felt to view this theory with favour, he was restrained from adopting its conclusions by the habitual caution

of his character, or rather by the want of that bold and enterprising spirit of speculation which is more or less essential to those who make great revolutions in science" (Peacock, 'Life of Young,' p. 375).

⁴ Ibid., p. 374.